



From : Adam Watson
Sent : 1 August 2010
To : Joe Dorward
Subject : Pink Paths of Mar

Joe

I have read and agreed totally with your articles on tracks.

When NTS began to remove the vehicle track on Beinn a' Bhuid and change it to a footpath, they decided to remove turves from pristine land near the track and insert them in the disturbed soils beside the new footpath.

On a site visit with the NTS manager, chief ranger and footpath officer, I argued against this, saying they should not cause NEW unnecessary impacts on pristine unaffected ground, simply to allow a more rapid revegetation of the narrow bands of disturbed ground.

I said this was especially the case on flat ground or gentle gradients, where the risk of runoff and erosion on such freely drained soils was very small.

They ignored my recommendations. They were concerned not with the impact of the works on the hill, but with the assumed political advantage of showing their pathworks in a good light as soon as possible!

I attach a critical review of a very poor SNH publication on tracks.

Adam